

Restructuring and Cadre Review of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation". The XLRI has since submitted its final report in August, 2006 providing for:

- (i) Branch Office as the first tier with exclusively original jurisdiction only.
- (ii) Regional Office as the second tier with original jurisdiction of its own and supervisory jurisdiction over two Branch Offices.
- (iii) Zonal Office as the third tier having supervisory jurisdiction over three Regional Offices.
- (iv) Central Office at the Apex level.

(c) and (d) The objective of the proposed changes aims at better reporting, supervision and control processes and is expected to improve, *inter alia*, settlement of claims.

Unemployment rates in the country

80. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the 61st Round of Employment and Unemployment for July, 2004 to June, 2006, carried out by the NSSO, the unemployment rate in rural areas is 17 per cent and unemployment in urban areas is 45 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a sharp increase in the rate of unemployment during the last two years;

(c) whether any assessment has been made to this effect;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the Survey revealed that the unemployment rate in women is higher than that of men; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a), (e) & (f) As per 55th and 61st round of NSSO, unemployment rate in the country on usual status basis during 1999-2000 and 2004-05 are given below:

Year	Rural (%)			Urban (%)			All (%)
	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	
1990-2000	1.7	1.0	1.5	4.5	5.7	4.7	2.2
2004-05	1.6	1.8	1.7	3.8	6.9	4.5	2.3

(b) to (d) The results of these surveys indicate that while unemployment rate in the rural areas has marginally gone up, in the urban areas, it has declined. On the whole, unemployment rate has marginally gone up from 2.2% in 1999-2000 to 2.3% during 2004-05.

Campaign for social security legislation

81. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that recently Self Employed Women Association (SEWA), trade union and other organisations together launched a campaign at Raj Ghat for Social Security legislation for workers in the unorganized sectors;

(b) if so, their specific demands and whether Government is considering to meet their demands, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A comprehensive legislation on Social Security for unorganised sector workers is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Contaminated drinking water in rural areas

†82. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.